



**AP-PLAT**

Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform

# AP-PLAT Framework for Action

2023-2025

## **AP-PLAT Framework for Action 2023-2025**

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# 1. Vision, Mission, Approach of AP-PLAT

The vision, mission and approach of the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) shall be as follows:

<b>Vision</b>	Sustainable and climate resilient development in the Asia-Pacific region
<b>Mission</b>	The mission of AP-PLAT is to support best science-based decision-making and promotion of effective climate change adaptation measures in the Asia-Pacific region, in light of climate change risks, through strengthening partnerships with diverse stakeholders, and to boost international adaptation efforts, with the UNFCCC process at its core. In particular, AP-PLAT aims to contribute to the achievement of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) set out in the Paris Agreement, given the importance of improving all countries' capacity in adaptation, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability.
<b>Approach</b>	<p>To achieve its mission, AP-PLAT will pursue the following basic approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actively promote partnerships with national and local governments, relevant organizations, and the private sector, which are key actors in promoting adaptation measures in the Asia-Pacific region. Specifically, AP-PLAT will function as an effective platform for creating opportunities for collaboration and promoting dialogue among supporting organizations and will effectively promote good adaptation practices.</li><li>• Establish three pillars of AP-PLAT activities, namely developing a scientific information and knowledge base, providing support tools, and capacity development and development of human resources through the above partnerships.</li><li>• Analyze and understand trends in adaptation needs in the Asia-Pacific region, and actively promote collaboration and dialogue with existing initiatives and platforms, to accurately prioritize adaptation needs in the region and focus on activities that are complementary and value-added to existing efforts, including those by AP-PLAT supporting organizations.</li></ul>

## 2. Immediate Priority Issues and Actions of AP-PLAT

### 2-1. Fundamental issues and efforts to promote adaptation

In the Asia-Pacific region, while there is a shared importance and urgency to addressing climate change risks, a platform that comprehensively consolidates the information necessary to address these risks does not yet exist. There is also limited horizontal collaboration among countries and relevant organizations in the region and sparse cross-disciplinary collaboration, such as the use of risk assessment information for adaptation measures and project design.

To overcome these challenges, AP-PLAT aims to strengthen regional partnerships for promoting climate change adaptation by effectively utilizing the strengths and experiences of AP-PLAT supporting organizations as well as adaptation-related technologies and solutions. To strengthen regional partnerships the following priorities will be addressed:

- Establish a one-stop, comprehensive information platform to organize and provide relevant information on adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Identify opportunities for comprehensive, strategic collaboration by understanding the overlap of existing efforts by national and local governments, relevant institutions, and private sector in the region, as well as unfilled gaps in regional needs.

- Launch new projects to co-create information, tools, and initiatives for capacity development needed in the Asia-Pacific region among AP-PLAT supporting organizations based on the identified gaps and opportunities, and in collaboration with relevant donors.

## **2-2. Individual issues related to the promotion of adaptation and efforts to address them**

While considering the trends and efforts in international climate change adaptation and loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change coordinated by the UNFCCC, focus should be put on the following issues to implement the above-mentioned measures:

### **Better decision-making and early action based on climate information**

To promptly address the adverse effects of climate change and disaster risk, it is important to promote more reliable climate-informed decision-making at all levels — national, sub-national, local, and community. Enabling early action based on scientifically sound climate information is key to building resilience, protecting the lives and property of those most vulnerable to climate change. Many challenges must be overcome, however, such as downscaling climate information, bringing global climate information to vulnerable countries, and sub-national, local, and community levels, ensuring that it links to early action. AP-PLAT will work with diverse stakeholders, including the private sector, to leverage climate information and create solutions for early action (including contributing to the initiative announced by the UN in March 2022 to “ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within the next five years”) through supporting better decision-making at appropriate geographic scales.

### **Practice Locally-led Adaptation**

Given that the manifestation of climate change impacts is highly dependent on national, sub-national, local, and community contexts, it is important that adaptation efforts are led by people in the target region who have knowledge and experience in those contexts. Locally-led adaptation (LLA) is a concept that has emerged from this thinking, and it suggests the importance of promoting adaptation at the local or community level. The LLA concept is effective for building community resilience by transferring resources such as funds and information from the national level to the community level, and encouraging local stakeholders to take a central role in the initiative. However, LLA initiatives have not yet been fully recognized in practice. AP-PLAT will promote the spread of LLA by sharing lessons learned and good practice experience in the Asia-Pacific region to increase the number of practical examples.

### **Addressing compound and cascading disaster risks**

The impacts of climate change are diverse, and are not limited to a single extreme weather event, but can be compound and cascading due to a combination of multiple events, including chronic (slow-onset) and acute (sudden-onset) events. A significant proportion of global economic losses by climate change and disasters are attributed to the damages caused to critical infrastructure sectors such as power, transport, and telecommunication. It is imperative to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure to adequately prepare for impacts and reduce vulnerabilities through comprehensive planning, delivery, financing, operation, and management. However, the current state of knowledge on compound and cascading disaster risks caused by climate change has not been sufficiently accumulated, and the debate on how countermeasures should be implemented has not yet fully developed. Therefore, to expand the response to compound and cascading disaster risks, specific solutions must be sought in light of the climate and socioeconomic risks unique to the Asia-Pacific region. AP-PLAT will further explore ways to address such compound and cascading risks.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Adaptation plans are being developed and implemented at the national, sub-national, local, and community level. The next step is to accelerate adaptation efforts by checking the progress of adaptation plans, reviewing them accordingly, and updating them appropriately. The key to this cycle of adaptation is the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation measures. Unfortunately, this can be fraught with difficulties, such as the lack of a single indicator to measure optimal adaptation measures, which can vary across sectors and regions. AP-PLAT will work on knowledge sharing and development of tools to overcome these challenges.

## **Mainstreaming synergies between climate change and biodiversity**

Climate change and biodiversity conservation are very closely related issues. Climate change has enormous impacts not only on human society but also on ecosystems, and conversely, changes in ecosystems also affect greenhouse gas emissions and absorption, as well as regional resilience and vulnerability. In addition, the introduction and implementation of simultaneous solutions to the problems of climate change and biodiversity conservation may bring additional multifaceted benefits to the region concerned. In this context, it is expected that nature-based solutions (NbS) will play a bigger role in adaptation as an inclusive concept, such as Eco-DRR and green infrastructure. AP-PLAT aims to mainstream this perspective in the Asia-Pacific region and develop feasible elements to create synergies between climate change and biodiversity.

### **Promotion of public-private partnerships**

In promoting adaptation, there are growing expectations for contributions not only from the public sector, but also from the private sector in terms of technology, services, and finance. For the private sector, it is important to minimize the impacts of climate change and aim for sustainable management based on appropriate climate risk management. Furthermore, private sector technologies and services that contribute to adaptation can lead to the expansion of adaptation business models. AP-PLAT will actively engage in both climate risk management and adaptation business promotion to accelerate collaboration with the private sector in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **3. Main Functions of AP-PLAT**

To ensure that AP-PLAT's activities are in line with the three pillars described in Approach 2 above, the platform has three specific functions:

### **1. Development of a scientific information and knowledge base**

Efforts will be made to collect, organize, and analyze climate risk information (e.g., climate change impact assessments and future projections) and data owned by, and accessible to, national and local policymakers, researchers, donors, and the private sector for the purpose of using this information in adaptation planning and implementation based on scientific knowledge (e.g., climate change impact assessments and future projections). Furthermore, new data and information will be collected, developed, and studied in response to needs and knowledge gaps indicated by stakeholders.

### **2. Provision of support tools**

A toolkit will be developed to support adaptation planning and adaptation measures for policymakers at national and local levels, researchers, donors, and private sector operators.

### **3. Capacity development and development of human resources**

Capacity development activities will be conducted to link adaptation actions based on scientific evidence (e.g., risk assessment, formulation of adaptation measures, financing and implementation of adaptation measures, monitoring and evaluation, etc.). Activities include networking among institutions related to capacity development, developing and sharing knowledge products, linking with existing training programs and implementing support activities, exploring new cooperation opportunities to promote capacity development, launching thematic capacity development courses, and promoting bottom-up climate change adaptation actions.

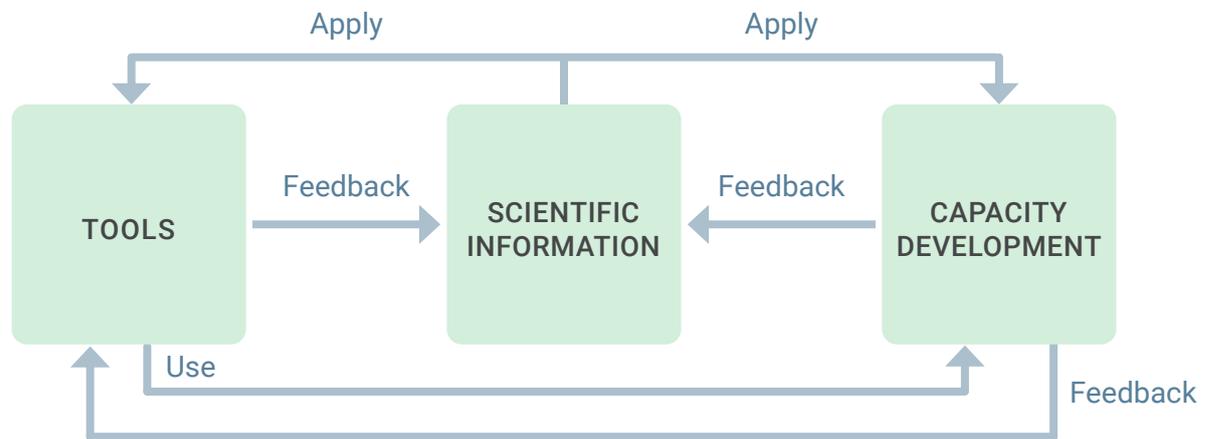


Figure 1. Three main functions of AP-PLAT and their interrelationships

AP-PLAT activities will be developed based on the Framework for Action (i.e., this document), which will be formulated every three years in line with these three pillars. As shown in Figure 1, activities under these three pillars will be promoted in a mutually complementary manner. “Scientific information and knowledge” will be actively utilized in the development of “support tools” and in “capacity development” activities. The “support tools” will be utilized in activities for “capacity development”. Furthermore, various views obtained through “capacity development” will be effectively fed back to improve the quality of the “support tools” and the capacity to capture and analyze “scientific information and knowledge”. As a means to effectively sustain these mutually complementary relationships, information on the activities of each of the three pillars will be regularly shared among supporting organizations at various meetings as described in Section 5.

## 4. Membership of AP-PLAT

### 4-1. Operational body of AP-PLAT

AP-PLAT is managed by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), with the aim of driving collaboration among the sponsoring organizations and promoting activities based on the three pillars under the Vision, Mission and Approach of AP-PLAT. NIES will establish and operate the information infrastructure (AP-PLAT website) for sharing scientific information, knowledge, and tools, while the formulation of AP-PLAT activity policies and the development and revision of the AP-PLAT Framework for Action will be carried out based on comments from AP-PLAT supporting organizations at the AP-PLAT plenary meeting. The three organizations will develop and revise the AP-PLAT activity policy and the AP-PLAT Framework for Action based on comments from AP-PLAT supporting organizations at the AP-PLAT plenary meeting. In accordance with the future development of AP-PLAT, consideration shall include the establishment of an “AP-PLAT Steering Committee” with the participation of other relevant organizations, in order to further promote specific adaptation efforts, in line with the status of cooperation and collaboration among relevant organizations in the region.

### 4-2. Definition and scope of AP-PLAT supporting organizations

Organizations supporting AP-PLAT are those that agree with AP-PLAT’s vision, mission, and approach, and promote activities based on the platform’s three pillars, while emphasizing the co-creation of information, tools, and initiatives for adaptation through collaboration. Supporting organizations are not obligated to do anything specific, but are envisioned as entities that utilize AP-PLAT as a platform according to their needs and interests.

However, if deemed necessary under each of the three AP-PLAT pillars, new partnership mechanisms for stronger collaboration may be introduced.

Supporting organizations will participate in activities in line with the purpose of the AP-PLAT, and will be responsible for the following:

- Providing comments for the development and revision of the activity policy of AP-PLAT and the AP-PLAT Framework for Action
- Providing knowledge and feedback on tools and climate-related information
- Dissemination of tools and information provided by AP-PLAT
- Actively help identify gaps and opportunities for collaboration on local adaptation, and propose and implement specific initiatives to address them.
- In addition to being able to participate in each of the AP-PLAT meetings and plenary sessions, AP-PLAT members will also benefit from
- Participation in AP-PLAT related events at international events such as the UNFCCC COP
- Sharing and publicizing the initiatives of each supporting organization on the AP-PLAT website
- Publication of the initiatives of each supporting organization in relevant reports on each AP-PLAT initiative
- Etc.

To become an AP-PLAT supporting organization, submission of an application form to the AP-PLAT Operational body is needed. The AP-PLAT Operational body will then decide whether or not the applicant is eligible to become an AP-PLAT supporting organization. Applications to become an AP-PLAT supporting organization are not limited to national or local governments. Submissions are welcome from related organizations such as private sector entities, NGOs and other related organizations. If a supporting organization wishes to withdraw its membership, it may do so at anytime by notifying the AP-PLAT operational body in writing of its intention to do so.

## 5. Content and purpose of AP-PLAT plenary meeting

The content and purpose of the AP-PLAT plenary meeting is shown in Table 1.

*Table 1. Contents and purpose of AP-PLAT meetings*

<b>Types (Frequency)</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Purpose and contents of the meetings</b>
Plenary Meeting (Once a year)	Supporting organizations, Operational body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange opinions on AP-PLAT’s activity policy (including opinions on the formulation and revision of the “AP-PLAT Framework for Action”)</li> <li>• Discussion of specific opportunities for collaboration based on AP-PLAT’s activity policy</li> <li>• Report on the progress of various AP-PLAT activities and confirm future direction</li> <li>• Sharing of activities and results by supporting organizations</li> <li>• Promote exchanges among AP-PLAT supporting organizations.</li> </ul>

The plenary meeting is open to all AP-PLAT supporting organizations, and is an opportunity to discuss specific opportunities for collaboration based on AP-PLAT’s overall activity policy, exchange opinions on the activity policy, report on the progress of AP-PLAT’s various activity plans and confirm future directions, as well as share activities and achievements by each supporting organization.

Sub-group meetings may be held as necessary for each of the three pillars of AP-PLAT. Supporting organizations are expected to actively participate in the plenary meeting and the sub- group meetings for each of the three pillars.

## 6. Updating and Revising the Framework for Action

The “AP-PLAT Framework for Action” will be updated every three years, in line with trends in international discussions on adaptation and the status of various related initiatives, with a view to gradually strengthening cooperation and collaboration among AP-PLAT supporting organizations. However, updates may also be made at other times as necessary.

This document shall be valid from April 2023 to March 2026, and shall be updated based on the status of activities outlined in this document.

